



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

7401 Timberlake Road

Lynchburg, VA 24502

FEMA-1458-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #32

Thursday, May 22, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12 Noon Thursday, May 15, 2003, through 12 Noon **Thursday, May 22, 2003** (New information in bold italics.)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. The briefing meetings in the DFO are held Wednesday as follows: Commonwealth (COV) 8:30 a.m.; joint Federal/COV 9 a.m. The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated (yellow).

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

The following counties and cities were added to the Presidential declaration, FEMA-1458-DR-VA effective April 28, 2003:

Prince William, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, for Public Assistance, Category B. only. (Emergency protective measures for a period of 48 hours)

Appomattox, Buchanan, Craig, Dickerson, Floyd, Halifax, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Scott, Wise, and Wythe Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Norton, Roanoke, and Salem for Public Assistance, all categories.

Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke Counties for Individual Assistance.

3. WEATHER

Today: Rain likely, cool with highs in the lower 60s, East winds 5-10 mph, chance of rain 70 percent. Tonight: Rain likely, areas of fog from late evening on, lows in the mid 50s, SE winds 5-10 mph becoming NE, chance of rain 60 percent. Friday: Rain likely, areas of fog early, highs in the lower 60s, NE winds 5-15 mph becoming SE early in the afternoon, chance of rain 60 percent.

4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- B. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- C. Increase the percentage of SBA applications returned.
- D. Continue planning DFO closing.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):****STATE CONTACT:** *Frank Williamson, 804 897-6500, X6528**(As of COB 5-22)*

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

May 15, was the last day for applying for unemployment assistance for the originally declared jurisdictions. Applications for DUA for the add-on jurisdictions: Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties will be accepted through May 30, 2003.

There have been 3 applicants. All have been awarded assistance for a total of \$3,300. No additional claims have been filed since the last report.

Only those individuals not meeting the requirements for normal unemployment benefits qualify for the Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

Tele-registrations:

(As of COB 5-22)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	468	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	151	Arlington Co.	1
Lee Co.	20	Augusta Co.	2
Montgomery Co.	54	Bedford Co.	3
Pulaski Co.	11	Bland	1
Roanoke Co.	*7	Botetourt Co.	1
Russell Co.	36	Campbell Co	1
Tazewell Co.	46	Fairfax	1
Wise Co.	185	Franklin Co.	2
Norton City	28	Giles Co.	1
Roanoke City	* 106	Halifax Co.	5
Salem City	* 121	Henry Co.	2
		Loudoun Co.	1
		Pittsylvania Co.	1
		Prince William Co.	1
		Scott Co.	3
		Spotsylvania Co.	2
		Washington Co.	2
		Wythe	1
Total	1,233	Total	32

*The use of zip codes in the NEMIS does not always accurately differentiate actual jurisdiction totals.

As of COB 5-22)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	1,066
Inspections Returned to FEMA	1,052
Inspections Outstanding	13
Inspectors in the Field	2
Turnaround Time	1.02

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:
(As of **COB 5-22**)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for "housing repairs".

Eligibility Rate	72%
Amount Approved	\$1,084,776.00
Amount Disbursed	\$1,089,766.00
Referrals	1,058
Approved	753
Ineligible	253
Withdrawn	38
Pending HA Categories	14

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance has begun. Payments began Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Eligibility Rate	45%
Amount Approved	\$729,025.00
Amount Disbursed	\$326,897.00
Referrals	454
Approved	192
Ineligible	227
Withdrawn	11
Pending ONA Categories	24

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans
(As of **COB 5-22**)

Home Applications Issued	523
Business Applications Issued	67
Total Applications Issued	590
Total Applications Approved	50
Total Applications Pending	5
Total Amount Approved	\$468,800.00

B. Public Assistance (PA):**STATE CONTACT:** Bob Andersen, 434-832-8506

- *All kick-off meetings completed.*
- *69 requests for Public Assistance. Two pending (town of Front Royal and Warren County Schools).*

Requests for Public Assistance	69
Project Worksheets Obligated	68
PW Funds <i>Obligated</i>	\$1,762,967.08
PW Funds <i>Paid</i>	\$173,463.37

- *Three reservists in field.*
- *One VDOT Rep in field.*
- *One state staff in field.*
- *Grants Conveyed and Paid:*
Towns of Orange, Gordonsville, Vienna, City of Fairfax, Fauquier County Public Schools, Fauquier County Airport and Winchester Regional Airport.

C. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**STATE CONTACT:** Richard Dameron, 804-897-6500, Ext. 6525

- Managing state Hazard Mitigation operations from VDEM HQ in Richmond.

D. Public Affairs (PAO):**STATE CONTACT:** Dawn Eischen, 804-897-6510

- Managing state Public Affairs operations from VDEM HQ in Richmond.

F. Legislative Liaison:**STATE CONTACT:** Arthur Warren, 804-897-6500 Ext 6587

- Managing state Legislative Liaison from VDEM HQ in Richmond.

G. Hazardous Materials:**STATE CONTACT:** Jack Tolbert, 276 328-2329

- *The Wise County Hazardous Material Team was utilized from Feb 17 through April 19, 2003. The team logged 1976 man-hours for a total cost of \$51,159.89 including equipment use and labor. 12,040 lbs of metal was recycled and 520 gallons of fuel and oil was recycled by local industry. Items disposed included propane tanks, freon tanks, oxygen cylinder, vehicle batteries, drums, fuel tanks and many household containers.*
- *All recovery operations are complete.*

H. Information and Planning**STATE CONTACT: Warren Theis, 434-832-8456**

- Lessons Learned session was held on May 9, 2003. Memo for record prepared to describe directed actions. Draft forwarded to Mr. H Colestock for review.
- State sitreps to be prepared on May **28** and **June 4**, 2003.

I. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:**STATE CONTACT: Mary Camp, 434 832-8560**

- Current State staffing level at the DFO for today is **10** including field staffing.
- ***Currently planned DFO close date is June 6, 2003.***

(s) Mary S. Camp for

Michael M. Cline, SCO

WAT 05/22/03, 1315